Since the menace of dowry is a reflection of women's low status in society, Government has taken a number of steps to raise the status of women and to change the societal attitudes towards girls and women. These include media campaigns, awareness generation camps, spreading legal literacy, counselling, legal aid, support to voluntary agencies and schemes for socio-economic empowerment of women including providing immediate succour to victims such as setting up of short stay homes.

Kendriya Vidyalayas/Navodaya Schools

1250. SHRI E.M. SUDARSANA NATCHIAPPAN: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Kendriya Vidyalayas and Navodaya Schools are running in every Parliamentary Constituency in the country; and

(b) if not, whether Government would take time bound implementation of the Scheme to have such school in every Constituency to cater the need of the target groups?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI MD. ALI ASHRAF FATMI): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Proposals for opening of new Kendriya Vidyalayas in Civil and Defence Sector are considered if sponsored by Ministries or Department of Government of India/State Government/Union Territories Administration/Organization of employees belonging to eligible categories. However, these proposals are considered subject to fulfillment of terms and conditions which *inter alia* include availability of 15 acres of land free of cost, concentration of least 1000 employees of Central Government/Defence Services and availability of at least 200 children to various classes.

As regards Navodaya Vidyalaya, the existing Navodaya Vidyalayas admit children from target groups from all over the District covering all the Parliamentary Constituencies of the district concerned where the Vidyalayas are established.

Promotion of lecturers

1251. SHRI A. VIJAYARAGHAVAN: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether UGC has issued guidelines for promoting Lecturer as Senior Lecturer/Reader under career advance scheme;